

DIVISION III

106 pounds

1. Cole Skinner, Middletown Madison, freshman (Troy)
2. Wyatt Riddle, East Clinton, sophomore (Troy)
3. Casey Barnett, Milan Edison, freshman (Defiance)
4. Lucian Brink, Coshocton, sophomore (Heath)
5. Collin Yinger, Nelsonville-York, junior (Heath)
6. Jacob (Boots) Kuhlins, Tuslaw, senior (Garfield Hts)
7. Zack Mattin, Delta, freshman (Defiance)
8. Wilber Compress, Reading, senior (Troy)
9. Brett Szuhay, Crestwood, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
10. Caleb Schroer, Troy Christian, sophomore (Troy)
11. Olivia Shore, Miami East, freshman (Troy)
12. Tyler Davis, Oak Harbor, freshman (Defiance)
13. Luke Stroud, Mechanicsburg, freshman (Troy)
14. Kellan Anderson, Covington, freshman (Troy)
15. Gabe Sutton, Wayne Trace, freshman (Troy)
16. Deagan Foster, Waterloo, sophomore (Garfield Hts)

DEF – Barnett, Mattin, Davis, Kole Freeman (Hopewell-Loudon, freshman); Will Blevins (Sandusky SMCC, sophomore)

GHTS – Kuhlins, Szuhay, Foster, Michael Pikryl (Roostown, freshman); Brandt Virden (Columbiana, junior)

HEA – Brink, Yinger, Manny Hielman (Galion Northmor, senior), Jon Polley (Marion Pleasant, sophomore)

TROY – Skinner, Riddle, Compress, Schroer; Shore, Stroud, Anderson, Sutton

A talent known to Ohio through his success up to high school, and known to the country through is freestyle exploits, the freshman Skinner is the favorite to open his state tournament career on top of the podium. Skinner qualified on the Cadet World team in freestyle this past off-season at 46 kilos (92.5 pounds), and it seems that he's been spending his winter focused on world level freestyle goals as much as winning high school gold. For regular season results, I can find a title at Bellbrook, but not too much else.

He exits a district tournament at Troy that is absolutely loaded with eight ranked wrestlers, including last year's runner-up in this weight class Riddle; the sophomore was at Legacy Christian last year, so he had to sit out the first half after transferring to East Clinton, where he has since won a title at Milford. The senior Compress went 2-2 in a Division II district last year, while this season he has two tournament runner-up finishes to go with a title at Sycamore.

The next two wrestlers on the ladder are the sophomore Schroer and the freshman Shore. Schroer was runner-up at Lima CC, upsetting Yinger in overtime in the quarterfinal (a wrestler he lost 6-0 to two weeks prior) before losing 7-5 to Shore in the final; however, he beat Shore 6-2 three days before in the regional duals. Olivia Shore seeks to become the second girl to qualify for the OHSAA state wrestling tournament, where she would join Paige Nemec, who went 1-2 at the 2010 state tournament.

Shore is the younger sister of three-time state placer Graham, an Air Force Academy signee. She also qualified for the Cadet World team in women's freestyle at 46 kilos this past spring/summer. Placing eighth at Medina made her the first female to ever place at that tournament, while she was named Outstanding Wrestler after winning the title at Lima CC.

The three other ranked wrestlers at Troy are fellow freshmen: Stroud, who won a title at Milton Union before taking fifth at Lima CC; Anderson who was runner-up at the GMVWA, champion over Shore at Troy, and eighth at Lima CC (losing 1-0 to Shore in the quarters); and Sutton who took fourth at Troy, second at Van Buren, and seventh at Lima CC.

Outside the Troy district, the freshman Barnett is the lead challenger. Placing fourth last year at 102 in the junior high state tournament, this season he already placed fourth at Brecksville with a win over state placer Yinger in the consolation semifinal. Two other freshmen join him among the ranked wrestlers at Defiance: junior high state champion Mattin is rather undersized but has fought through that to finish third at Perrysburg, sixth at Maumee Bay, and fourth at Delaware Hayes; while Davis was champion at Bellevue, third at LCC, and sixth at Perrysburg.

Two of the four wrestlers in this weight class that made state last year come from the Heath district, the junior Yinger who took fourth and the sophomore Brink who went 1-2. Yinger placed sixth at Brecksville, has a title at Nelsonville-York, and placed fourth at Lima CC; while Brink has titles in three tournaments this season. Those are the lone ranked wrestlers in this district, the lack of depth at Heath will end up being something of a trend.

Lastly it's the district at Garfield Hts, which features just three ranked wrestlers, led by returning state placer Kuhlins; the senior was runner-up at Top Gun after missing out on placement at North Canton (top six) and Brecksville by one bout. Also ranked here are sophomore Szuhay and Foster. Szuhay finished top six at Solon, was runner-up at Willoughby South, and champion at Kenston; while Foster was fourth at the EOWL meet.

113 pounds

1. Oscar Sanchez, Genoa, junior (Defiance)
2. Ray Adams, Milan Edison, junior (Defiance)
3. Austin Guthrie, Coshocton, junior (Heath)
4. Brandon Hahn, Eastwood, freshman (Defiance)
5. Chase Caprella, Allen East, sophomore (Troy)
6. Gavin Weaver, Newcomerstown, sophomore (Heath)
7. Cael Vanderhorst, Covington, freshman (Troy)
8. Jake Edelman, Pymatuning Valley, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
9. Caleb Edwards, Rootstown, freshman (Garfield Hts)
10. Dominic Savoca, Crestwood, junior (Garfield Hts)
11. Antonio Lecki, Milbury Lake, sophomore (Defiance)
12. Kyle Keenan, South Range, junior (Garfield Hts)
13. Marshall Niswonger, Caldwell, junior (Heath)
14. Brayden Reynolds, Barnesville, senior (Heath)
15. Brian Chmielewski, Coldwater, junior (Troy)
16. Tyler Sandwisch, Woodmore, senior (Defiance)

DEF – Sanchez, Adams, Hahn, Lecki; Sandwisch

GHTS – Edelman, Edwards, Savoca, Keenan; Zach LaHood (Black River, junior)
HEA – Guthrie, Weaver, Niswonger, Reynolds; Brayden Rittenhouse (West Muskingum, sophomore)
TROY – Caprella, Vanderhorst, Chmielewski, Brayden Clinton (East Clinton, sophomore); Joseph Burns (Bidwell River Valley, junior)

Last year Genoa brought five wrestlers to the state tournament, had four of them win a match, and all four of them wrestled on the raised mat Saturday night; all five of those wrestlers return this season, and also next season. That included Sanchez, who won gold at 106 a year after being closed out of the lineup by Dylan D’Emilio. This season, expect more of the same type of dominance, as they are prohibitively favored to win the state title one year after they finished second to Mechanicsburg.

Sanchez went 2-2 at the Ironman losing to a pair of place-winners, before finishing second at Perrysburg and first in his conference meet. Four other ranked wrestlers join him at the Defiance district, including projected state runner-up Adams. The fellow junior placed seventh last year at 106 and is the lone other returning placer in this state weight class. On the season he was runner-up at Milan Edison, eighth at Brecksville, and champion at Marion County.

The freshman Hahn has been most excellent winning titles at three tournaments, including Van Buren, before finishing runner-up to Sanchez at his league meet. The sophomore Lecki was runner-up at Northwood and champion at Marion Pleasant; while the senior Sandwisch was third at Northwood and his league meet (semfinal loss to Hahn), along with a runner-up finish at the Kilted Classic.

From the four other returning state qualifiers at this weight class, the lone one to actually win a match was the junior Guthrie. During this season he has titles at Coshocton and River View in this weight class, while finishing second at Barnesville and Heath up a weight. Three other ranked wrestler join him at the Heath district. The sophomore Weaver did beat Guthrie to win gold up a weight class at Heath; however, he was runner-up to Guthrie at Cosyocton. Additional tournaments include a runner-up finish at Smithville and third place finishes a Nelsonville-York and New Lexington. The junior Niswonger is a returning state alternate, this season he won at Barnesville and was third at the OVAC; while the senior Reynolds placed fifth at the OVAC.

The district at Garfield Hts feature a pair of state qualifiers among its four ranked wrestlers. Leading the way is Edelman, who went 0-2 at state last year despite winning district as a freshman; he has titles this season at Riverside and Jackson Milton, while finishing second at Kenston and fourth at the EOWL. Also a returning state qualifier is the junior Keenan, who was runner-up to Edelman at Jackson Milton before placing sixth at the Hephner and fifth at the EOWL. The other two ranked wrestlers are the freshman Edwards and the junior Savoca who went 1-2 at a Division II district last year. Edwards this season won the title at Jackson Milton up a weight class, and has a narrow 9-8 loss to Adams in a dual meet; while Savoca was fourth at Solon, champion at Willoughby South, and third at Kenston.

Rounding it out is a Troy district led by returning state qualifier Caprella, who has titles at four tournaments (including a win over Vanderhorst in the Lima CC final, while finishing runner-up to Hahn at Van Buren. Just two other ranked wrestlers exit this district, the freshman Vanderhorst and the senior Chmielewski. Vanderhorst was champion at Troy, runner-up at Lima CC, and seventh at the GMVWA; while Chmielewski was champion at Middletown Madison, runner-up at Troy, and third at Lima CC.

120 pounds

1. Graham Shore, Miami East, senior (Troy)

2. Dylan Burns, Milan Edison, senior (Defiance)
3. Ethan Turner, Troy Christian, sophomore (Troy)
4. Carter Wolf, Marion Pleasant, senior (Heath)
5. Cameron Dickman, Oak Harbor, junior (Defiance)
6. Kaleb Patterson, Ridgedale, senior (Heath)
7. Clayton Eagle, Ashland Crestview, senior (Defiance)
8. Jacob Poling, Versailles, junior (Troy)
9. Skylar Davis, Fredericktown, senior (Heath)
10. Darion Tracy, Defiance Ayersville, senior (Defiance)
11. Jacob Edwards, Bidwell River Valley, junior (Troy)
12. Robert Pinkie, Lutheran West, junior (Garfield Hts)
13. Lane McCombs, South Charleston Southeastern, junior (Troy)
14. Zach Schaller, Swanton, junior (Defiance)
15. J.P. Hlfika, Hawken, senior (Garfield Hts)
16. Drake Carmean, Allen East, freshman (Troy)

DEF – Burns, Dickman, Eagle, Tracy; Schaller

GHTS – Pinkie, Hlfika, Jake White (Manchester, sophomore), Josh Ondash (Crestwood, sophomore); William Campbell (Pymatuning Valley, sophomore)

HEA – Wolf, Patterson, Davis, Austin Amens (Galion Northmor, sophomore); Hayden Johnson (Richmond Edison, sophomore)

TROY – Shore, Turner, Poling, Edwards; McCombs, Carmean

As mentioned earlier, the Air Force commit Shore is a three-time state placer, finishing seventh as a freshman and third each of the last two years. He is well positioned to earn that elusive state title, as it's been a most excellent senior season without a loss that I can find. It includes wins over a pair of state placers each in winning titles at Medina and Lima CC, with all of those wins coming via bonus points.

His district tournament at Troy will include five other state ranked wrestlers, but only the sophomore Turner is state experienced, placing third last year at 106 pounds. On the season he was runner-up at GMVWA and Lima CC, while winning a title at Licking Valley. The junior Poling is next, winning a title at Sidney to go with placement at four other tournaments including fifth at the GMVWA and seventh at Maumee Bay; he also came through with a big pin over state qualifier Nickels in the regional duals final. Fellow junior Edwards follows, and the returning district placer finished third at Nelsonville-York in this weight while winning two tournaments up at 126. Another junior and district placer is McCombs, who has a pair of tournament titles on the season; while the ranked group is rounded out by the freshman Carmean, champion at two tournaments, runner-up at two others, and seventh at Lima CC.

Ranked second in this state weight class is two-time state placer Burns, a senior who was runner-up at Milan Edison, champion at Marion County, and one match from placing at Brecksville; he also has a 7-2 dual meet win over a bumped up in weight Oscar Sanchez. Four other ranked wrestlers exit the district at Defiance, including returning state placer Dickman; a junior who was champion at Bellevue, second at Perrysburg, and third at both Medina and Lima CC. Also ranked here is the senior Eagle, who placed at district two years ago while competing in Division II at Ashland; this season he was champion at the Gorman. Fellow senior Tracy was fourth at Lima CC and placed seventh up a weight class at Defiance; while the junior Schaller was champion at Northwood, third at Van Buren, and fifth at Lima CC.

The two other state placers in this weight class, seniors Wolf and Patterson both exit the Heath district; it should be noted that Wolf beat Patterson 7-6 at the Marion County tournament after being him 4-3 to place seventh last year in this state tournament weight class. On the season Wolf has titles in four events, while Patterson also placed third at Marion Harding. The lone other ranked wrestler at this district is fellow senior Davis, a returning district placer, who has won a title at Mount Vernon before placing second in three tournaments and fourth at the Gorman.

Rounding it out is a Garfield Hts district that continues its trend of not being strong in the lower weights this year, similar to last year. Just three wrestlers here with state experience, all went two-and-out at the Schott, while only two of them are ranked. The junior Pinkie was fourth at Lorain and second at Perry, while the senior Hlifka was fifth at the North Coast Classic and a CVC champion. Also qualifying for state last year was the sophomore White.

126 pounds

1. Tommy Hoskins, Legacy Christian, senior (Troy)
2. Julian Sanchez, Genoa, junior (Defiance)
3. Cole Mattin, Delta, junior (Defiance)
4. Zack Larue, Manchester, junior (Garfield Hts)
5. Logan Hursey, Newcomerstown, freshman (Heath)
6. Klay Reeves, Johnstown Northridge, junior (Heath)
7. Trevor Schaller, Swanton, senior (Defiance)
8. Dakota Blanton, Ashland Crestview, senior (Defiance)
9. Tyler Bauer, Wayne Trace, junior (Troy)
10. Isaac Hernandez, Ottawa Glandorf, junior (Troy)
11. Kaleb Nickels, Miami East, sophomore (Troy)
12. Seth Majewski, Brooklyn, junior (Garfield Hts)
13. Devan Hendricks, Greeneview, junior (Troy)
14. Jordan Bowers, Defiance Tinora, senior (Defiance)
15. Jackson Hugentobler, Madeira, junior (Troy)
16. Matthew Dewitz, Oak Harbor, sophomore (Defiance)

DEF – Sanchez, Mattin, Schaller, Blanton; Bowers, Dewitz

GHTS – Larue, Majewski, Derik Houser (Columbia Crestview, junior), Noah Campbell (Pymatuning Valley, junior); Michael Kucera (Independence, junior)

HEA – Hursey, Reeves, Gavin Ramos (Galion Northmor, sophomore), Levi Pemberton (Caldwell, senior); Ryley Crall (Union Local, junior)

TROY – Hoskins, Bauer, Hernandez, Nickels; Hendricks, Hugentobler

As previously noted, should Hoskins win this state title, he would become the 30th to be a four-time state champion in Ohio. He would have also won a pair of titles at Dayton Christian and a pair at Legacy Christian. In so doing he would join Ken Ramsey (Lancaster Fisher Catholic/Bishop Ready), C.P. Schlatter (Columbus DeSales/St. Paris Graham), and Dustin Schlatter (St. Paris Graham/Massillon Perry) as wrestlers to win those four titles at two different schools.

The Oklahoma signee has a sparkling overall resume that includes a pair of All-American finishes in Junior freestyle. During the preseason Super 32, Hoskins sustained an injury that took away the first two thirds of his season, but since returning he has titles at both the JVH Memorial and Delaware Hayes tournaments; at Delaware Hayes he beat two-time state placer Mattin 5-2 in the final.

His two direct challengers to a state title both exit the district at Defiance, two-time state placers Sanchez and Mattin, both of whom are juniors. As a result, Hoskins will have to beat both foes in order to win state gold. Sanchez placed eighth at the Super 32 this fall in the 120 pound weight class, while this season he went 3-2 at the Ironman before winning titles at Perrysburg (beating Mattin in OT) and at his conference meet. Mattin placed third at Norrth Canton, runner-up at both Perrysburg and Delaware Hayes, and champion at Maumee Bay (beating DI title contender Burnett in that final).

Four additional ranked wrestlers join Sanchez and Mattin and Defiance, a group led by 2016 state qualifier Schaller and two-time state qualifier Blanton. The senior Schaller has titles at Northwood and Van Buren on the season, while the junior Blanton was sixth at the Gorman and fifth at New Lexington. Also a returning state qualifier is the senior Bowers, which means someone with state experience won't get to make the trip to Columbus this year; while on the season he was third at Defiance and fifth at Perrysburg. Also here is the sophomore Dewitz, who was champion at Bellevue before finishing fourth at Perrysburg and fifth at Lima CC.

Hoskins anchors the other deep district in this weight class, the one at Troy that feature five other ranked wrestlers, three of them returning state qualifiers. The junior Bauer jumps up three weights from his district placement finish of last year, and has been most excellent, winning a title at Lima CC after placing in four other tournaments (including a third at Van Buren). Fellow junior Hernandez finished fourth at Van Buren and third at Lima CC. Nickels – state qualifier last year as a freshman – has two tournament titles, a runner-up at Lima CC, along with missing placement at Medina by one bout. The junior Hugentobler went two-and-out in this state weight last year, and placed fourth at Lima CC this year; while the junior Hendricks placed sixth at 106 last year, and this year had runner-up finishes at GMVWA and Beavercreek before losing in the quarterfinals 5-4 to Hernandez at Lima CC.

Another pair of two-time state placers reside in this weight class, juniors Larue and Reeves. They've been in the same state weight classes both years, with Larue finishing sixth and Reeves eighth on each occasions. Both wrestlers anchor weak district tournaments that feature just one other ranked wrestler.

Larue was champion at the Gorman earlier this season and qualifies through Garfield Hts where fellow junior Majewski also qualified for state last year, and has two tournament titles to go with a fourth at Kenston. Reeves was chamion at Mount Vernon and has placed in four other tournaments this season, including fourth at Medina and fifth at Maumee Bay. He exits the district at Heath, whose only other ranked wrestler is the freshman Hursey, who was third at junior high state last year. On the season Hursey upset Reeves on the way to a runner-up finish at New Lexington; while has two other tournament runner-up finish to go with titles at Coshocton and Smithville.

132 pounds

1. Dylan D'Emilio, Genoa, junior (Defiance)
2. Niko Chilson, Rootstown, junior (Garfield Hts)
3. Jacob Edwards, Troy Christian, senior (Troy)
4. Mason Kuneff, Bridgeport, junior (Heath)
5. Noah Inboden, Nelsonville-York, sophomore (Heath)
6. Deuce Brown, Legacy Christian, freshman (Troy)
7. Aaron Kitts, Galion Northmor, senior (Heath)
8. Peyton Lane, National Trail, sophomore (Troy)
9. Daniel Price, Mohawk, senior (Defiance)

10. Preston Platfoot, Versailles, senior (Troy)
11. Connor Brennan, Tuslaw, senior (Garfield Hts)
12. Parker Watson, Lutheran West, junior (Garfield Hts)
13. Andrew Zarins, Brooklyn, senior (Garfield Hts)
14. Andrew Knaup, West Muskingum, sophomore (Heath)
15. David Patterson North Baltimore, senior (Defiance)
16. Wil Roth, Sandusky SMCC, junior (Defiance)

DEF – D’Emilio, Price, Patterson, Roth; Zach Rocha (Archbold, junior)

GHTS – Chilson, Brennan, Watson, Zarins; Nick Ciancola (Canton Central Catholic, junior)

HEA – Kuneff, Inboden, Kitts, Knaup; Blake Barrick (Coshocton, junior)

TROY – Edwards, Brown, Lane, Platfoot; Johnny Schirmer (Blanchester, sophomore)

While there will not be multiple potential four-time state champions come 2019, in order for there to be any potential four time state champion, the junior D’Emilio has to come through with a title in this weight class. In the 17 years from 2001 to last year, there were four-time champions in fourteen of those years; this year would likely make it 15 in 18 for the 21st century. This Class of 2019 wrestler has a robust resume of his own to augment the two state titles: two placement finishes at the Super 32, three Fargo freestyle All-American finishes, and a Cadet world team appearance in 2015.

Though D’Emilio missed the Ironman this year due to injury, he returned to pick up another Medina title, beating fellow state champion Fields in overtime. He also was champion at Perrysburg and in his conference meet. Three other ranked wrestlers are present at the Defiance district, led by 2016 state qualifier Price, who made the late drop to this weight class after a season at 138 that included a runner-up finish at Van Buren. The senior Patterson was champion at Arcadia and champion at Van Buren, while the junior Roth has two tournament titles to go with a runner-up at Van Buren and a fifth at the Gorman.

Ranked second in this weight is fellow junior Chilson, who placed fifth at 126 last year after finishing runner-up the previous year in Delaware. This season Chilson was 2-2 at the Beast of the East and placed sixth at Brecksville, while picking up a pair of wins over state qualifiers in dual meets. Three other ranked wrestlers are present at the Garfield Hts district. It starts with returning state qualifier Brennan, a senior, who placed sixth at Top Gun and has a 2-0 dual meet loss to Chilson. The junior Watson was a state alternate last year in this weight class, and this season he has a title up a weight class at Lorain before placing third at Perry in this weight class. Another returning state qualifier is the senior Zarins, who was runner-up at Kenston and Avon Lake, while winning a title at Howland and placing fourth at North Coast. Also in this weight class is another returning state qualifier in Ciancola, who also went two-and-out at the Schott.

A third state placer in this weight class is the senior Edwards, who has placed second at 106 and third at 113 the last two years at state. This season he was runner-up at the GMVWA before winning titles at Licking Valley and Lima CC. He’ll be joined by three other ranked wrestlers at Troy, most notably the freshman Brown, whose title at Delaware Hayes was preceded by runner-up finishes at Olentangy Liberty and Perrysburg. The sophomore Lane missed the second half of last year due to injury, but has been most excellent this season in winning at Valley View and finishing third at Eaton; while the senior Platfoot is a returning state alternate, and has placed in five tournaments on the season (sixth at GMVWA and Maumee Bay most notably).

The fourth state placer from last year leads the fourth district tournament, Inboden placed eighth last year at 126 and leads the group at Heath. On the present season, he has three tournament runner-up finishes (including the one at Lima CC), and missed out on placing at Brecksville by a match. Three other ranked wrestlers feature in this district tournament, including returning state qualifiers Kuneff and Kitts; while returning state qualifier Barrick is not among the top 16. The junior Kuneff placed seventh at Brecksville and fourth at the OVAC; while the senior Kitts was eighth at Medina, fourth at the Gorman, and champion at Marion Pleasant. Last among the ranked wrestlers is the sophomore Knaup, who was third at Barnesville (beating Barrick along the way) and fifth at Athens.

138 pounds

1. Alex Isbrandt, Miami East, senior (Troy)
2. Jared Ford, Troy Christian, senior (Troy)
3. Nick Burgard, Ashtabula St. John, junior (Garfield Hts)
4. Dustin Morgillo, Genoa, sophomore (Defiance)
5. Jordan Keegan, Milan Edison, junior (Defiance)
6. Jacob Hahn, Eastwood, senior (Defiance)
7. Noah Saunders, Swanton, senior (Defiance)
8. Max Neiling, Patrick Henry, senior (Defiance)
9. Travis Howard, Preble Shawnee, freshman (Troy)
10. Dallas Scott, Centerburg, senior (Heath)
11. Drew Price, Middletown Madison, senior (Troy)
12. Brier Marthey, Tuslaw, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
13. Cael Rowland, West Salem Northwestern, junior (Garfield Hts)
14. Lucas Freeman, Allen East, senior (Troy)
15. Darry Endicott, Lakota, senior (Defiance)
16. Jordan Hinegardner, Lima Central Catholic, senior (Troy)

DEF – Morgillo, Keegan, Hahn, Saunders; Neiling, Endicott

GHTS – Burgard, Marthey, Rowland, Duvall (Rootstown, junior); Evan Hostetler (Waynedale, senior)

HEA – Scott, Brian Heller (Nelsonville-York, senior), Brady Crum (Union Local, freshman), Colin Wiley (Caldwell, sophomore); Carter Winegardner (West Muskingum, sophomore)

TROY – Isbrandt, Ford, Howard, Price; Freeman, Hinegardner

While Miami East lost to Versailles in the regional final on the dual team side, they have created a nice group for the individual state series and could creep towards the top five of the standings. Along with Shore, Isbrandt is also a three-time state placer finishing seventh as a freshman and sophomore before losing in overtime in the state final last year. On this season, he was runner-up at Medina losing by pin in the tiebreaker to nationally ranked Baughman, and has two wins over direct title challenger Ford (including a 3-1 victory in the final at Lima CC). Fellow senior Ford placed fifth in this state weight class last year, and has titles at the GMVWA and Licking Valley on the season.

Isbrandt and Ford are joined by four other ranked wrestlers to make for a deep district tournament at Troy, though it's really the latter four seeking two state spots. The freshman Howard was champion at Valley View and fifth at Lima CC, while also picking up a dual meet victory over the senior Price, whose season includes runner-up finishes at two tournaments along with titles at Middletown Madison and Ballbrook. Fellow senior Freeman finished second at Allen County, fifth at Van Buren, and sixth at Lima CC; while fellow senior Hinegardner won the title at Allen County, was champion at the CIT, third at Tiffin Calvert, and eighth at Lima CC.

The other deep district at his weight class is the one at Defiance, which again typifies the trend overall (Troy and Defiance being the deeper and more talented district tournaments). A group of six ranked wrestlers is led by Morgillo, who qualified for state last year as a freshman, and this season has a fourth at Medina to go with a runner-up at Perrysburg. The junior Keegan is a transfer in from Elyria, and missed the first half of the season; since his return he has lost 12-6 to Ford and by major decision to Morgillo. Next up is the senior Hahn, a district placer last season; he has titles at Lima senior, Van Buren, and Utica before losing to Morgillo in his conference tournament final.

Another senior Saunders is next on the ladder at Defiance with third place finishes at both Defiance and Van Buren on the season. 2015 state qualifier Neiling finished fifth at Defiance and Maumee Bay before placing fourth at Lima CC, while fellow senior Endicott finished fourth at Van Buren and seventh at Lima CC.

Burgard went 1-2 at this weight class at state last year as a sophomore and has been most excellent splitting time between this and the 145 weight class. He finished third at Solon and fifth at the Top Gun up a weight class, while in this weight class missed placement at Brecksville by a match and took third at Lima CC. He is joined by just two ranked wrestlers at Garfield Hts, returning state qualifier Marthey and returning district placer Rowland. The sophomore Marthey was fourth at North Canton, while the junior Rowland was runner-up at Milan Edison and Nelsonville-York.

Lastly the Heath district features just one ranked wrestler in 2016 state qualifier Scott, a senior who has three tournament titles on the season to go with a runner-up at Benjamin Logan and a fifth at Marion Harding. Also present in this weight class is returning state qualifier Heller.

145 pounds

1. Logan Kissell, Garrettsville Garfield, senior (Garfield Hts)
2. Conan Becker, Galion Northmor, senior (Heath)
3. Gavin Grime, Archbold, senior (Defiance)
4. Hugo Villarreal, Gibsonburg, senior (Defiance)
5. Joey Caprella, Lima Central Catholic, junior (Troy)
6. Chase Sumner, Ada, senior (Troy)
7. Austin Eick, Rossford, senior (Defiance)
8. Henry Danishek, Dayton Christian, senior (Troy)
9. Nate Vasquez, Fremont SJCC, senior (Defiance)
10. Zane Strubler, Miami East, senior (Troy)
11. Dylan Schenck, Milton Union, junior (Troy)
12. Andrew Hardenbrook, Columbiana Crestview, senior (Garfield Hts)
13. Brennan Shirley, Tuslaw, junior (Garfield Hts)
14. Gage Pachlhofer, Swanton, senior (Defiance)
15. Mason Wright, Wellington, senior (Garfield Hts)
16. Justin Anderson, Wellston, junior (Heath)

DEF – Grime, Villarreal, Eick, Vasquez; Pachlhofer

GHTS – Kissell, Hardenbrook, Shirley, Wright; Tyler Jenkins (Rootstown, senior)

HEA – Becker, Anderson, Hunter Gilbert (Belpre, junior), Zon Corbett (Coshocton, senior); Anthony Sanders (Newcomerstown, senior)

TROY – Caprella, Sumner, Danishek, Strubler; Schenck

Three-time state placer Kissell has finished seventh, sixth, and third at the state tournament and seeks to cap off what has been an excellent career to date with a state title. Last year he was my projected state champion at 132, but was derailed by a 4-1 quarterfinal defeat against Isbrandt. During the current season he was champion at Solon and placed eighth at the Beast.

His district at Garfield Hts should be relatively straight forward with three other ranked wrestlers present, all in the double digits. Leading the way is the senior Hardenbrook, who placed third at the EOWL and fourth at the OVAC. The junior Shirley was fifth at North Canton before failing to place at Brecksville and the Top Gun, while the senior Wright was champion at Avon Lake and third at Bellevue.

Two of the challengers to Kissell each placed sixth in last year's state tournament, seniors Villarreal and Becker, for each of whom it was a second state tournament podium finish. Becker is the number two ranked wrestler in this weight class, and on the season was fourth at Medina before winning titles at the Gorman and Marion Pleasant. Only one other ranked wrestler joins him at the Heath district, and that would be the junior Anderson, who has a pair of tournament titles on the season.

Villarreal is one of five ranked wrestlers at the Defiance district, three of whom are returning state qualifiers. Villarreal was runner-up at Perrysburg with titles at Van Buren and Wapakoneta on the season. However, it is fellow senior and returning state placer Grime who is the top ranked wrestler at this district; on the season he was champion at Maumee Bay in this weight class, while finishing third at Defiance up one weight class. Also a returning state qualifier is fellow senior Eick, who has titles at Marion Harding and his conference, along with a 3-2 dual meet win over two-time state qualifier Strubler. Another senior Vasquez is next on the ladder, and he was champion at Northwood, runner-up at Lima CC, and eighth at Maumee Bay; while 2015 state qualifier Pachthofer rounds out the group with runner-up finishes at Northwood and Van Buren, missing placement by a match at Defiance, and a semifinal appearance at Lima CC.

The Troy district is also deep with five ranked wrestlers, including three possessing state tournament experience. However, the top ranked wrestler here is the junior Caprella, a returning state alternate. It's been an excellent season as he has titles at five tournaments to his credit: Allen County up at 152; Defiance, CIT, Lima CC, and Tiffin Calvert in this weight. Two-time state placer Sumner was third at Lima Senior and champion of his conference tournament; 2016 state qualifier Danishek has three tournament titles to his credit, including one at Milton Union, while finishing runner-up twice competing at 152. Fellow senior Strubler, a two-time state qualifier was champion at Tippecanoe and Troy, while finishing eighth at Medina and third at Lima CC. Rounding it out is the junior Schenck, runner-up to Danishek at Milton Union, third at Eaton, and champion in two tournaments.

152 pounds

1. Gavin Stika, Norwayne, senior (Garfield Hts)
2. Kevin Contos, Genoa, sophomore (Defiance)
3. Chase Moore, Swanton, senior (Defiance)
4. David Cumberledge, Ashtabula St. John, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
5. Conor Becker, Galion Northmor, sophomore (Heath)
6. Dillon Walker, Legacy Christian, freshman (Troy)
7. Wyatt Lefker, Williamsburg, senior (Troy)
8. Billy Luft, Newark Catholic, junior (Heath)
9. Kyle Ryder, Tuslaw, junior (Garfield Hts)

10. Trenton Matthew, Smithville, senior (Garfield Hts)
11. Beau Lefever, Mapleton, junior (Garfield Hts)
12. Hayden Pummel, Indian Lake, freshman (Troy)
13. Ryan Finney, Garrettsville Garfield, senior (Garfield Hts)
14. Trevor Franks, Lakota, sophomore (Defiance)
15. Tyler Ludwig, Van Buren, senior (Defiance)
16. Seth Cade, Richmond Edison, senior (Heath)

DEF – Contos, Moore, Franks, Ludwig; Carlton Roberts (Rossford, sophomore)

GHTS – Stika, Cumberledge, Ryder, Matthew; Lefever, Finney

HEA – Becker, Luft, Cade, Mark Woodard (West Jefferson, senior); Braden Robinson (Union Local, senior)

TROY – Walker, Lefker, Pummel, Kerington Martin (Covington, junior); James Badial-Luna (Bluffton, senior)

After a pair of runner-up finishes in 2013 and 2014, Kollin Moore became Norwayne's first state champion in a 2015 campaign that will be remembered for its absolute dominance. From there he redshirted at Ohio State, and finished third at 197 in 2017; currently he is ranked first nationally. The Bobcats would earn state titles in 2016 and 2017 through Zach Steiner, including last year's state final victory over two-time state champion James Handwerk.

They now have another state title candidate in Stika, who has finished eighth at 106, qualified at 120, and finished third at 138 in three previous state tournament appearances. On the season, he was champion at Smithville, while finishing third at Medina with his only loss coming 1-0 to McIntosh in the opening round. The road to a state title won't be easy, and it starts with a deep district at Garfield Hts that features five other ranked wrestlers.

Leading that pack is the talented sophomore Cumberledge who was upset in the district semifinal last year and then could not bounce back in the consolation semifinal. He would bounce back with a third place finish almost a month later at the NHSCA Freshman Nationals. This season he finished fifth at Brecksville, won the title at Perry, was third at Top Gun, and runner-up at Lima CC. The lone wrestler joining Stika as a returning state qualifier at Garfield Hts is the junior Ryder, who missed the first two-thirds of the season with a football injury. Another returning state alternate is the senior Matthew who was sixth at Medina. Also ranked here are the junior Lefever and the senior Finney; Lefever was runner-up at the Mike Lewis Inviational along with placing third at the Gorman and Marion Harding, while Finney placed third at Solon.

The two other most direct threats to Stika come from returning state placers Contos and Moore at the Defiance district. Contos placed sixth in this weight last year at Division I Oregon Clay, and had to sit out the first half due to transferring, but then had a slight further delay in stepping on the mat; he recently won a title at his conference meet. The senior Moore is a two-time state placer, and this season has titles in four tournaments: Northwood, Defiance, Van Buren, and Lima CC where he beat Cumberledge 3-2. Another pair of wrestlers are ranked at this district, the sophomore Franks and the senior Ludwig, a returning state alternate. Franks was runner-up at Van Buren and seventh at Lima CC, while Ludwig has a pair of tournament titles before placing third at both Van Buren and Tiffin Calvert.

A fourth returning state placer in this weight is the senior Lefker, who placed eighth at this weight last year. On the current season he was champion at Williamsburg, fifth at the GMVWA, and missed placement by one bout at SWOWCA. Only two other wrestlers join him in the rankings at the Troy

district, both being freshmen, Walker and Pummel; on the season Pummel won a title at Mount Vernon before placing sixth at Defiance and eighth at Maumee Bay.

The Heat district features a pair of returning state qualifiers in the sophomore Becker and the junior Luft. Becker placed fourth at Medina in this weight before moving up to 160, where he finished third at the Gorman and won a title at Marion Pleasant; while Luft was runner-up at Licking Valley, fifth at the CIT, and third at Lima CC. The other ranked wrestler from this district is the senior Cade, a returning district placer; this season he was third at the OVAC and prior to that was runner-up at Beaver Local up one weight class.

160 pounds

1. Colt Yinger, Nelsonville-York, senior (Heath)
2. James Limongi, Genoa, junior (Defiance)
3. Forrest Belli, Johnstown Northridge, senior (Heath)
4. Grant Goecke, Ottawa Glandorf, senior (Troy)
5. Santino Kusic, Bridgeport, junior (Heath)
6. Brylan Clouse, Barnesville, junior (Heath)
7. Ryan Marvin, Swanton, junior (Defiance)
8. Dylan Knotts, Indian Lake, senior (Troy)
9. Parker Brown, Mohawk, senior (Defiance)
10. Chris Anderson, Rootstown, freshman (Garfield Hts)
11. Jesse Mitchell, South Charleston Southeastern, senior (Troy)
12. Seth Obringer, Coldwater, senior (Troy)
13. Christian Blank, Ashtabula St. John, junior (Garfield Hts)
14. Brady Jaso, Gibsonburg, junior (Defiance)
15. Stephen Skeens, Tuslaw, senior (Garfield Hts)
16. Derek Duvall, West Salem Northwestern, senior (Garfield Hts)

DEF – Limongi, Marvin, Brown, Jaso; Austn Grubb (Montpelier, senior)

GHTS – Anderson, Blank, Skeens, Duvall; Gavin Davis (Loudonville, sophomore)

HEA – Yinger, Belli, Kusic, Clouse; Charles Smith (Buckeye Local, sophomore)

TROY – Goecke, Knotts, Mitchell, Obringer; Eric Weber (Bidwell River Valley, junior)

The top two contenders in this weight class each were involved in a surprise last year at the state tournament, one to the good, the other not so much. For Yinger, runner-up at state in 2016 as a sophomore, he was expected to win state at 152 pounds; however, Lagoa had other ideas, earning a 6-3 upset victory in the finals. For Limongi, who was a state alternate at 138 as a freshman, he was in and out of the lineup during his sophomore season before getting hot in the back end of the season and winning the state title in this weight class.

Each has wrestled most excellently during this season, losing only to national caliber opposition. Two-time state runner-up Yinger is an Ohio University signee, and his lone loss came to two-time state champion Freeman in the Brecksville final; it was a third runner-up finish for Yinger in that event. During that tournament he pinned Torres and majored Michigan state champion Orrison; since then he has dominated to three titles, including one at Lima CC. The junior Limongi finished seventh at the Ironman losing only to two-time National Prep champion Merola from New Jersey and Freeman, while his other loss came in the Medina final to Carr; notable wins came over Hightower at the Ironman, Ferree in the Medina semi, and Torres in overtime during the final at Perrysburg.

Projected champion Yinger has the stronger challenge pack at his district, as two others at Heath are returning state qualifiers with a third additional wrestler in the rankings. Returning state placer Belli has titles at three tournaments, including one at 170 at New Lexington where he beat two state qualifiers; while he finished fourth at Medina and third at Maumee Bay. The junior Kusic also made state last year, and this season went 3-2 at Brecksville in this weight, while placing fourth at the OVAC up at 170. Also ranked at this district is fellow junior Clouse, a returning state alternate, who was runner-up at Barnesville before placing third at the OVAC and New Lexington.

Returning champion Limongi also has three other ranked wrestlers at Defiance, with only the senior Brown having state experience, making the tournament in 2016 before being an alternate last year. This year Brown was third at Van Buren. Also ranked here are a pair of juniors, Marvin and Jaso. Marvin was champion at Northwood, runner-up at Van Buren, and third at Lima CC while advancing to the quarterfinals at Defiance. Jaso was third at Perrysburg, fifth at Van Buren, and champion at Wapakoneta.

The sixth wrestler in this weight with state experience, and fifth returning state qualifier is the junior Blank; this season he placed fourth at Perry, was in the fifth place bout at Lima CC, and missed placing at the Top Gun by one match. Joining Blank at Garfield Hts are three other ranked wrestlers, the leader of the pack being the freshman Anderson, a junior high state runner-up who missed placement at Brecksville by one match before winning the title at Jackson Milton. Seniors Skeens and Duvall are also ranked in this weight class. Skeens competed at 152 while Ryder was out of the lineup, where he missed a top six finish at North Canton by one match and won two matches at Brecksville; while Duvall was runner-up at Nelsonville-York in the 170 weight class before dropping down here.

Rounding out the weight class is the four ranked wrestlers from the Troy district, including a pair of seniors in Goecke and Knotts who both were state alternates last year. Goecke finished runner-up at both Defiance and Lima CC, along with winning the title at Van Buren; while Knotts was runner-up at Mount Vernon, champion at Bellbrook, and seventh at Maumee Bay. Fellow senior Mitchell was a district placer last year, and this season has titles in three tournaments; while another senior Obringer was champion at Middletown Madison, runner-up at Troy, and fourth at Lima CC.

170 pounds

1. Jacob Lagoa, Ashtabula St. John, sophomore (Garfield Hts)
2. Riley Smucker, Smithville, senior (Garfield Hts)
3. Brad Mendoza, Gibsonburg, junior (Defiance)
4. Tyler Speelman, Nelsonville-York, senior (Heath)
5. Connor Kwiat, Tiffin Calvert, senior (Defiance)
6. Seth Henderson, Miami Valley Christian Academy, junior (Troy)
7. Sevi Garza, Rittman, freshman (Garfield Hts)
8. Danny Rosales, Ottawa Glandorf, junior (Troy)
9. Dustin Knapp, Mechanicsburg, senior (Troy)
10. Richie Stalnaker, Newark Catholic, senior (Heath)
11. Jackson Dunn, Tuscarawas Valley, senior (Heath)
12. Owen Holtke, Bethel-Tate, senior (Troy)
13. Nick Mroczynski, Independence, senior (Garfield Hts)
14. Ethan Pappas, Richmond Edison, freshman (Heath)
15. Jacob Brewer, Milan Edison, sophomore (Defiance)

16. Seth Moore, Genoa, senior (Defiance)

DEF – Mendoza, Kwait, Brewer, Moore; J.D. Osborn (Delta, junior)
GHTS – Lagoa, Smucker, Garza, Mroczynski; Kaden Kidd (Norwayne, freshman)
HEA – Speelman, Stalnaker, Dunn, Pappas; Richard McFarland (Martins Ferry, sophomore)
TROY – Henderson, Rosales, Knapp, Holtke; Hunter Showalter (Wayne Trace, senior)

Though Lagoa entered high school as a highly known commodity, he really burst on the scene last season when he placed fourth at Brecksville and third at the Top Gun. Then it was the state finals victory over Yinger, after advancing to that point with two technical falls and a fall in earlier matches. This season he reached the quarterfinal at the Ironman with a win over two-time Illinois state placer Jimenez before losing to a nationally ranked wrestler from Missouri (Shannon) and a returning California state placer. He would finish runner-up at Brecksville with a pin over Eyer in the semifinals before winning three tournaments, including the Top Gun and Lima CC.

Ranked second at this weight class is the senior Smucker, who was runner-up at district last year to Lagoa and fourth at state. Also a two-time state placer and NHSCA Junior Nationals placer, he missed the first half-plus of the season due to a football injury; since returning he advanced to the semifinals at Wadsworth. Two other ranked wrestlers are present at Garfield Hts: the freshman Garza, a junior high state runner-up last year, and the senior Mroczynski. Garza has titles at Smithville and Berkshire, while Mroczynski was sixth at the North Coast Classic.

Two other returning state placers reside in this weight class, the junior Mendoza and the senior Speelman. Mendoza leads a group of four ranked wrestlers at Defiance that includes a returning state qualifier in Kwait. On the season Mendoza has tournament titles at Perrysburg, Van Buren, and Wapakoneta; while the senior Kwait has titles at Tiffin Columbian and Tiffin Calvert to go with a runner-up finish at Van Buren and third at Lima CC. Also ranked here are the sophomore Broewer and the senior Moore. Brewer was third at Milan Edison plus has dual meet wins over Knapp and Moore; while Moore was runner-up at Bellevue and third at Perrysburg, along with missing placement at Medina by one match.

Speelman is joined by 2016 state qualifiers Stalnaker and Dunn, who each missed last season due to injury. On the current season Speelman was champion at Nelsonville York and Athens, along with finishing second at Lima CC; fellow senior Stalnaker has a title at Licking Valley and missed top six at the CIT by one match; while Dunn is also a senior. The fourth ranked wrestler at this district tournament is the freshman Pappas, who was champion at Beaver Local and sixth at the OVAC.

Rounding out the district tournaments is one at Troy that features four ranked wrestlers led by the junior Henderson, a returning state qualifier who won titles at North College Hill and Sycamore this season. The other returning state qualifier in this weight class is the junior Rosales, who was seventh at Defiance, third at Van Buren, and fourth at Lima CC. Also ranked here are seniors Knapp and Holtke, who both were district placers last year; Knapp won a title at Milton Union before taking fifth at Lima CC, while Holtke was sixth at SWOWCA up at 182 before dropping down here.

182 pounds

1. Logan Stanley, Waynedale, senior (Garfield Hts)
2. Daniel Beemer, Ottawa Glandorf, senior (Troy)
3. Chris Langguth, Rootstown, junior (Garfield Hts)

4. Sam Stoll, Milan Edison, senior (Defiance)
5. Tanner May, Carey, sophomore (Defiance)
6. Will Morrow, Patrick Henry, sophomore (Defiance)
7. Connor Dixon, Indian Lake, senior (Troy)
8. Jake Loar, Tuslaw, junior (Garfield Hts)
9. Garrett Neth, Allen East, sophomore (Troy)
10. Damon Beatty, Troy Christian, senior (Troy)
11. Xavier Beach, Genoa, senior (Defiance)
12. Cameron Vanbrunt, Orrville, senior (Garfield Hts)
13. Aidan Loveridge, Riverdale, senior (Defiance)
14. Matthew Welker, Miami East, junior (Troy)
15. Garrett Duncan, Bridgeport, senior (Heath)
16. Chris Cox-Wilson, North Union, junior (Heath)

DEF – Stoll, May, Morrow, Beach; Loveridge

GHTS – Stanley, Langguth, Loar, Vanbrunt; Anthony Czap (South Range, sophomore)

HEA – Duncan, Cox-Wilson, Brice Berger (Danville, senior), Drake Dobson (Martins Ferry, junior); Korey Pytlarz (Marion Pleasant, senior)

TROY – Beemer, Dixon, Neth, Beatty; Welker

Before Beemer stepped onto the mats at Ottawa Glandorf, the school more known for its prowess in basketball had one state placer in program history, a wrestler that placed seventh. The previous two years saw Beemer fifth in this weight as a sophomore and fourth up at 195 last season. Now he is in position to become the school's first state finalist and/or champion.

Beemer leads the way at a very strong Troy district that features four other ranked wrestlers, two of whom advanced to the state tournament last year. Fellow senior Dixon qualified at 160 in Division II, and this season won titles at Mount Vernon and Maumee Bay, with a third place at Defiance and a second at Bellbrook. The other returning state qualifier is another senior In Beatty, who was sixth at the GMVWA, champion at Licking Valley, and fourth at Lima CC. Also ranked here are the sophomore Neth and the junior Welker, a returning state alternate. Neth has been most excellent winning two tournaments, while finishing runner-up at Sidney and Marion Harding, with third place finishes at Van Buren and Lima CC losing to May on both occasions. Welker was runner-up at Troy and sixth at Lima CC.

However, the projected state champion is another senior in Stanley, who placed third at 170 last year. If that name is familiar, it's because the Waynedale head coach Louie Stanley is his uncle. On the season, Stanley has multiple tournament titles, including one at Cuyahoga Hts where he majored state placer Wokojance in the final. His district at Garfield Hts features three other ranked wrestlers, including returning state placer Langguth, who has placed at both the Beast of the East (sixth at 195) and Brecksville (third) this season; Langguth is 2-1 against two-time state placer Stoll, winning a pair at Brecksville before losing 3-2 in a dual meet at SMCC. Also ranked here is fellow junior Loar, a returning district placer, along with the senior Vanbrunt. Loar spent most of the season at 195 where he was fourth at North Canton and fifth at the Top Gun, while Vanbrunt was champion at Coshocton and seventh at the Gorman.

Wrestlers ranked fourth through sixth exit the Defiance district. Two-time state placer Stoll was champion at Milan Edison up a weight class and fourth at Brecksville in this weight class; the sophomore May placed sixth at state in this weight class last year, and this season was champion at Bellevue before

finishing runner-up to Beemer at Van Buren and Lima CC; while Morrow also qualified for state in this weight last year as a freshman, and this season finished runner-up at Defiance and fourth at Maumee Bay up at 195 before making the drop.

Two other wrestlers are ranked at Defiance, and they'll be after the fourth state spot, with both being seniors. Retuning state alternate Beach was sixth at Medina and fifth at Perrysburg, while Loveridge was champion at Northwood.

Rounding it out is a Heath district that features just two ranked wrestlers: the senior Duncan, a returning state qualifier; along with the junior Cox-Wilson, who was champion at North Union and runner-up at Marion Pleasant.

195 pounds

1. Dalton Hoover, Martins Ferry, senior (Heath)
2. Hudson Jump, Grandview Hts, junior (Heath)
3. Ryan Boyle, Rootstown, junior (Garfield Hts)
4. Dylan Hinton, Elmwood, senior (Defiance)
5. Dylan Rogers, Delta, senior (Defiance)
6. Deandre Nassar, Bluffton, junior (Troy)
7. Josh Pearson, Columbus Academy, senior (Heath)
8. Nick Shepard, Fairless, senior (Garfield Hts)
9. Jacob Campbell, Black River, senior (Garfield Hts)
10. Zach Banks, Middletown Madison, senior (Troy)
11. Gage DeHart, Versailles, senior (Troy)
12. Ty Straits, Waynedale, senior (Garfield Hts)
13. Cole Mefford, Indian Lake, senior (Troy)
14. Colton Campbell, Ashland Crestview, senior (Defiance)
15. Landon Talbert, Columbiana Crestview, senior (Garfield Hts)
16. Crew Oberheim, Swanton, senior (Defiance)

DEF – Hinton, Rogers, Campbell, Oberheim; Micah Ritter (Edgerton, junior)

GHTS – Boyle, Shepard, Campbell, Straits; Talbert

HEA – Hoover, Jump, Pearson, Mason Wiley (Caldwell, junior); Colton Snyder (Nelsonville-York, freshman)

TROY – Nassar, Banks, DeHart, Mefford; Craig Montgomery (Troy Christian, sophomore)

Martins Ferry last saw state gold in 2004 when Clay Tucker won gold at 130 pounds as part of a career that saw him place at state four times. Two-time state placer Hoover, a signee at Northern Illinois seeks to get them off that schneid. In 2016 he lost 3-2 to Will Bolanz in the state final at this weight class, while last year it was a 4-3 loss in the ultimate tiebreaker in the semifinal to Logan Hall that derailed his title run. This season the all-state football player is undefeated with titles at Brecksville, the OVAC, and New Lexington.

His most direct threat will come from a fellow two-time state placer in the junior Jump, who also exits the district at Heath. On the season Jump has tournament at titles at Olentangy Liberty and Marion Pleasant, while finishing third at the Top Gun. The other ranked wrestler at this district is 2016 state qualifier Pearson, a senior who was champion at East Knox and runner-up at Marion Harding this season, along with losing by fall to Jump in a dual meet.

Wrestlers ranked third and fourth are both seniors and exit the district at Defiance. Returning state placer Hinton placed fourth at Medina, and also bumped up to 220 to beat returning state placer Bever; while 2016 state qualifier Rogers had to bow out in his go-to-state match last year due to injury. This season the senior Rogers has runner-up finishes at North Canton, Perrysburg (3-1 to Hinton) and Maumee Bay to go with a third at Delaware Hayes. Two other ranked wrestlers are present at this district, in fellow seniors Campbell of Ashland Crestview and Oberheim. Campbell was third at Kenston and sixth at the Gorman, while returning state qualifier Oberheim was champion at Northwood and missed placement at Defiance by a single match.

Three returning state qualifiers will exit the district at Garfield Hts, including the junior Boyle, who placed fourth last year at 220 pounds. He has spent most the season at 220, where he placed sixth at the Beast and fourth at Brecksville before making the drop into this weight class. Also here are seniors Campbell of Black River and Shepard, who each won a state tournament bout last year. Campbell was fourth at the Gorman this year, while Shepard was champion at Smithville. Two other ranked wrestlers are in the hunt for a fourth state spot at this district, both seniors, Straits and Talbert. On the season Talbert has runner-up finishes at the OVAC and EOWL meets. Look for some others to possibly find a home up or down in weight, where picking up that fourth state spot is more realistic.

Rounding it out is a district at Troy that features two returning state qualifiers among four ranked wrestlers. Seniors Nassar and Banks both qualified for state last year in this weight, though Banks did so in Division II. Nassar has three tournament titles this year, including a win over Morrow in the Defiance final, along with a runner-up finish at Van Buren; Banks counters with two tournament titles, a runner-up finish at Bellbrook, and a third at Middletown. Also ranked here are seniors DeHart and returning district placer Mefford; DeHart most notably has a fifth place finish at Maumee Bay, where Mefford placed eighth, while Mefford also won a tournament title at Bellbrook up in the 220 weight class.

220 pounds

1. Gaige Willis, Pymatuning Valley, senior (Garfield Hts)
2. Paul Skye, Mogadore, senior (Garfield Hts)
3. Chris Kuhn, Sandusky SMCC, senior (Defiance)
4. Noah Price, Fremont SJCC, junior (Defiance)
5. Donovan McCollister, Nelsonville-York, junior (Heath)
6. Crawford Hamrick, Tuslaw, senior (Garfield Hts)
7. Brenden Dalton, Miami East, junior (Troy)
8. Caleb Carpenter, Liberty Center, junior (Defiance)
9. C.J. Novotny, Crestwood, senior (Garfield Hts)
10. River Pappas, Richmond Edison, junior (Heath)
11. Seth Bailey, Plymouth, senior (Defiance)
12. Dalton Richard, junior (Defiance)
13. Jake Sage, Oak Harbor, junior (Defiance)
14. Bradley Lewis, Bethel-Tate, senior (Troy)
15. Jarrett Palmer, West Muskingum, sophomore (Heath)
16. Nick Baker, Troy Christian, junior (Troy)

DEF – Kuhn, Price, Carpenter, Bailey; Richard, Sage

GHTS – Willis, Skye, Hamrick, Novotny; Sam Auble (Orrville, senior)

HEA – McCollister, Pappas, Palmer, Jamie Baisden (Marion Pleasant, senior); Seth Johnson (Tuscarawas Valley, senior)

TROY – Dalton, Lewis, Baker, Dylan Sargeant (Columbus Grove, sophomore); Ty Steveson (Preble Shawnee, sophomore)

Prior to the Edinboro signee Willis starting his high school career, Pymatuning Valley never had a placer at the state wrestling tournament. He placed eighth as a freshman at 170 in 2015 before losing 7-1 to Handwerk in the 2016 state final. Since that loss, Willis was an undefeated 46-0 to win state at 195 last year, and remains undefeated in this season. He has three shutout victories in tournament finals over returning state qualifier Meaney (Riverside, Kenston, and the EOWL), while picking up a 3-1 overtime victory over Stein in the EOWL semifinal.

The only other state placer in this weight is the senior Skye, who placed eighth last year after finishing sixth in 2016. He'll be at the Garfield Hts district along with Willis; on the season he has titles at Coshocton and the Hephner, and has a dual meet win over Boyle. Also ranked in this district weight class are fellow seniors Hamrick and Novotny. Returning state alternate Hamrick was sixth at Brecksville and third at the Top Gun. Novotny placed third at Solon and Kenston in this weight class, before making a drop down to 195; however, the smart money suggests a move back up to this weight with Boyle making the drop down.

The next two wrestlers in the rankings are returning state qualifeirs Kuhn and Price, who both exit the Defiance district. The senior Kuhn was runner-up at Bellevue and the Gorman, along with winning titles at Toledo St. John and Van Buren; while the junior Price was runner-up at Maumee Bay and Lima CC, along with a runner-up finish at Northwood in the 285 pound class.

Four additional ranked wrestlers exit this district tournament, including the junior Carpenter, a returning state qualifier. The senior Bailey has tournament titles at Arcadia and Plymouth; the junior Richard placed sixth at North Canton, fifth at Perrysburg, and fourth at Delaware Hayes this season; while fellow junior Sage is a returning state alternate, with a third at Bellevue and sixth at Lima CC on the resume.

The sixth contender with state tournament experience is the junior McCollister, who this season has tournament titles at Nelsonville-York and Lima CC, along with a runner-up finish at Athens and missing placement by a match at Brecksville. He exits a Heath district that features just two other ranked wrestlers in returning district placers Pappas and Palmer, both of whom are also underclassmen. On the season, the junior Pappas was champion at Beaver Local.

There are only three ranked wrestlers, none with state experience at the Troy district. The group is led by the junior Dalton, a returning state alternate who finished seventh at Medina and third at Lima CC along with picking up titles at Tippecanoe and Troy. The senior Lewis placed eighth at SWOWCA; while the junior Baker was eighth at the GMVWA and fourth at both Licking Valley and Lima CC.

285 pounds

1. Brian Stearns, Williamsburg, senior (Troy)
2. Hunter Bodkin, Martins Ferry, senior (Heath)
3. Derrick Elrod, Ashtabula St. John, senior (Garfield Hts)
4. Brayden Phillips, Tuslaw, senior (Garfield Hts)
5. Thomas Lytle, Swanton, senior (Defiance)
6. Ben Farrar, Waynedale, senior (Garfield Hts)

7. Lane Fry, Ashland Crestview, senior (Defiance)
8. Pat Sheridan, VASJ, senior (Garfield Hts)
9. Joe Warren, Smithville, junior (Garfield Hts)
10. Josh Robinson, Shadyside, senior (Heath)
11. Jeffrey Ware, Versailles, senior (Troy)
12. Thomas Schweiterman, Coldwater, senior (Troy)
13. Mitchell Hurlbut, Fredericktown, senior (Heath)
14. Kade Clark, Union Local, senior (Heath)
15. Dylan Thompson, North Union, junior (Heath)
16. Noah Koch, Genoa, junior (Defiance)

DEF – Lytle, Fry, Koch, C.J. McCrimmon (Sandusky SMCC, senior); Kain Brossic (Elmwood, junior)

GHTS – Elrod, Phillips, Farrar, Sheridan; Warren

HEA – Bodkin, Robinson, Hurlbut, Clark; Thompson

TROY – Stearns, Ware, Schweiterman, Joey Groeber (Clermont Northeastern, senior); Jeff Meyer (Ottawa Glandorf, freshman)

The last of the 42 weight classes to be written with commentary, as is almost always the case, is Division III heavyweight. This may also be one of the easiest weight classes from which to pick a projected state champion, and it's interesting that the big guys in both Division II and Division III will arguably be high point value picks for those that do confidence-based contests.

The senior Stearns placed fourth in this state weight last year, losing in overtime in the consolation final after suffering a loss by fall to eventual state runner-up Derek Smith in the opening round. On this season, he has titles at both SWOWCA and the GMVWA, with a win over a pair of Division I projected state placers in each tournament.

Just two other ranked wrestlers join him at the Troy district in fellow seniors Ware and Schweiterman. Ware has tournament titles at Sidney and Valley to go with a fourth at the GMVWA and a seventh at Maumee Bay. Schweiterman won gold at Middletown Madison, while finishing second at Troy and third at Lima CC.

Ranked second in this state weight is three-time state qualifier Bodkin, who had competed all three prior years at 220, including an eighth place finish in 2016. This season has seen him win titles at Barnesville, Brecksville, and the OVAC; he has a pair of wins over state placers and another one over a returning state qualifier. Four other ranked wrestlers are present at the Heath district, which is something of a rarity for the tournament. Leading the group is the senior Robinson, who was fifth at Barnesville and fourth at the OVAC. Fellow senior Hurlbut has three tournament titles, including one at North Union over Thompson, to go with a third at East Knox and a runner-up at the Gorman.

Another senior in Clark is a returning district placer, and was runner-up at Barnesville and Coshocton before missing placement by one match at the OVAC. A fifth ranked wrestler is the junior Thompson, who has runner-up finishes at North Union and Marion Pleasant to go with a third at Tiptecanoe.

Five ranked wrestlers also exit the Garfield Hts district, where there will truly be an open competition for each of the four state spots. Presently top of the ladder is the senior Elrod, a returning district placer, who recently won the title at Lima CC; before that he was third at Top Gun and missed placement at Brecksville by one match. Next up is returning state placer Phillips, who was third at North Canton

following that up with a 2-2 mark at Brecksville and missing placement at Top Gun by one match. Returning district champion Sheridan is another senior, who this season was third at the North Coast Classic and CIT before winning a pair of tournaments. The junior Warren qualified for state last year from the alternate position; this season was champion at Smithville, runner-up at Washington C.H. and Wadsworth, along with placing fourth at Medina.

Finally, it's the district tournament at Defiance that features three ranked wrestlers, with the senior Lytle the only one to previously qualify for state. This season he has three tournament titles, including those at Northwood and Van Buren, before placing second at Lima CC. Fellow senior Fry has also been excellent this season placing second at Kenston, winning the Gorman, and finishing fifth at New Lexington. The junior Koch is our last ranked wrestler to write about, and his season includes a third at Bellevue, and eighth at Medina, and a runner-up finish at Perrysburg.